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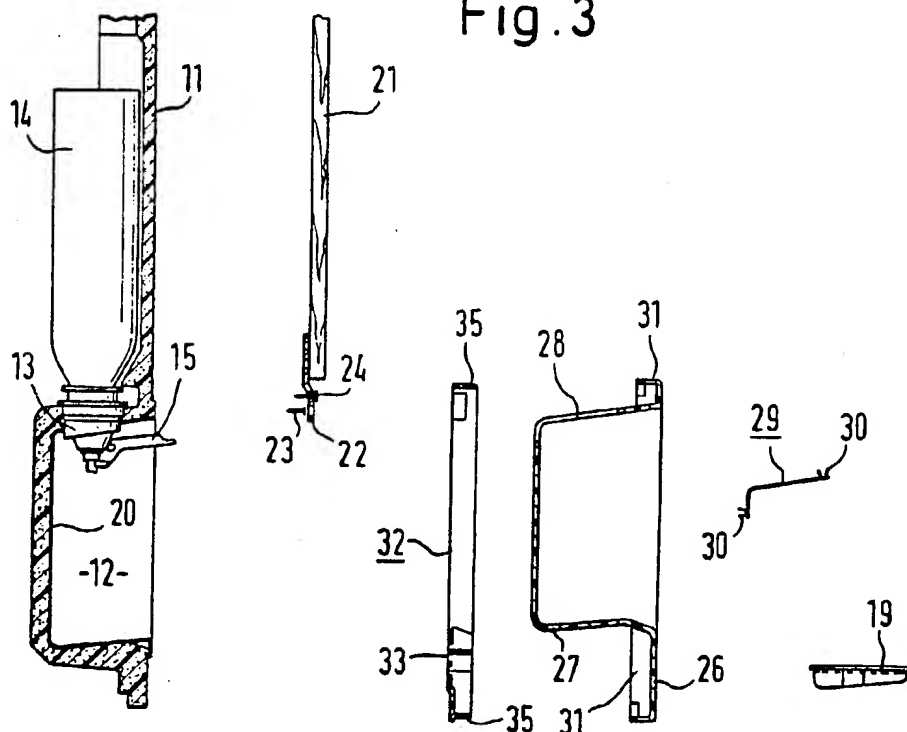
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(54) Door trimming in a cooling appliance

(57) A cooling appliance, such as a built-in refrigerator is provided in its door (11) with a dispenser (13) for cooled beverages, the valve-controlled outlet of the dispenser being arranged in a recess (12), which is lined by a trough-like moulded part and accessible from the outside, of the door. The door (11) is faced by a facing element (21), which is cut away at the level of the recess (12) and provided with a cover member (26) covering the cut away region. A closure (2a) may close opening (28) in the top of the cover member (26).



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Fig.1

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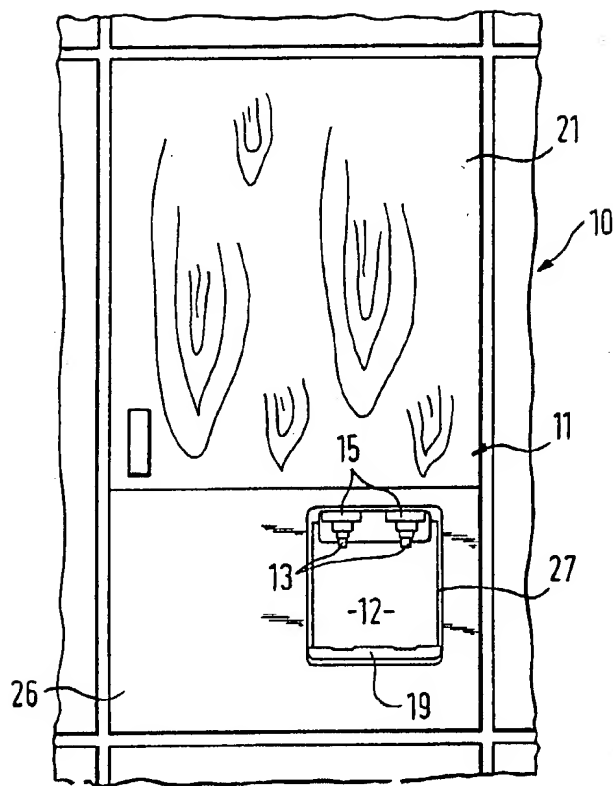


Fig. 2

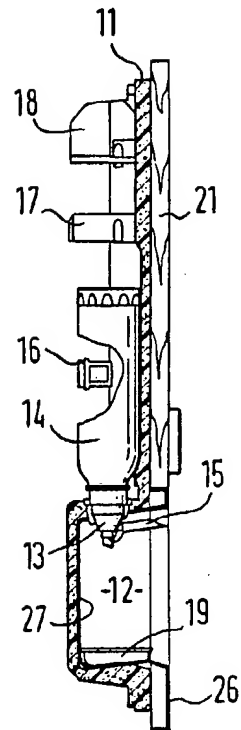


Fig. 3

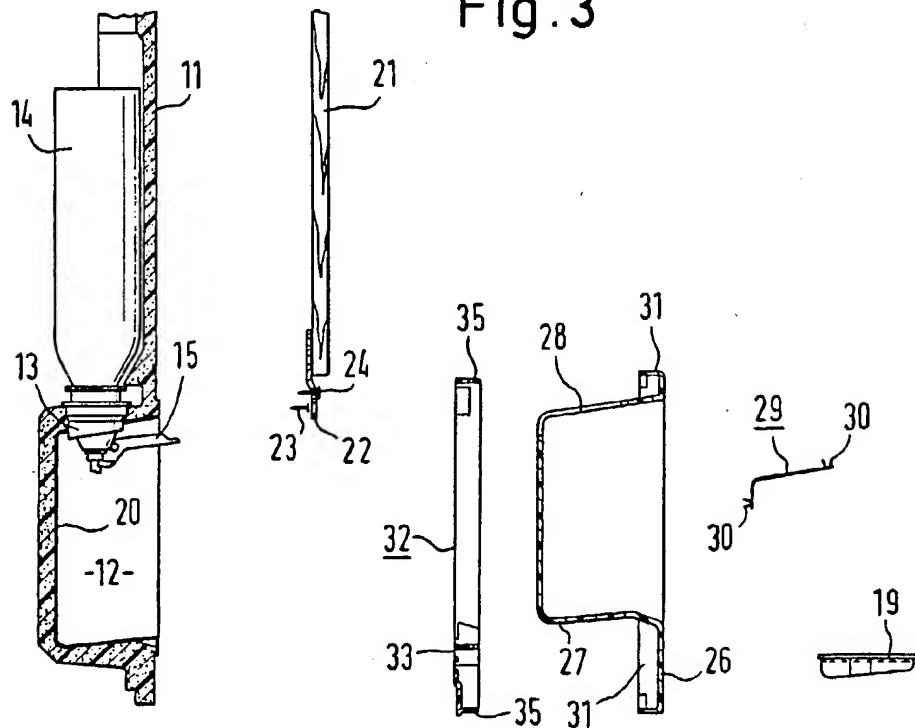


Fig. 4

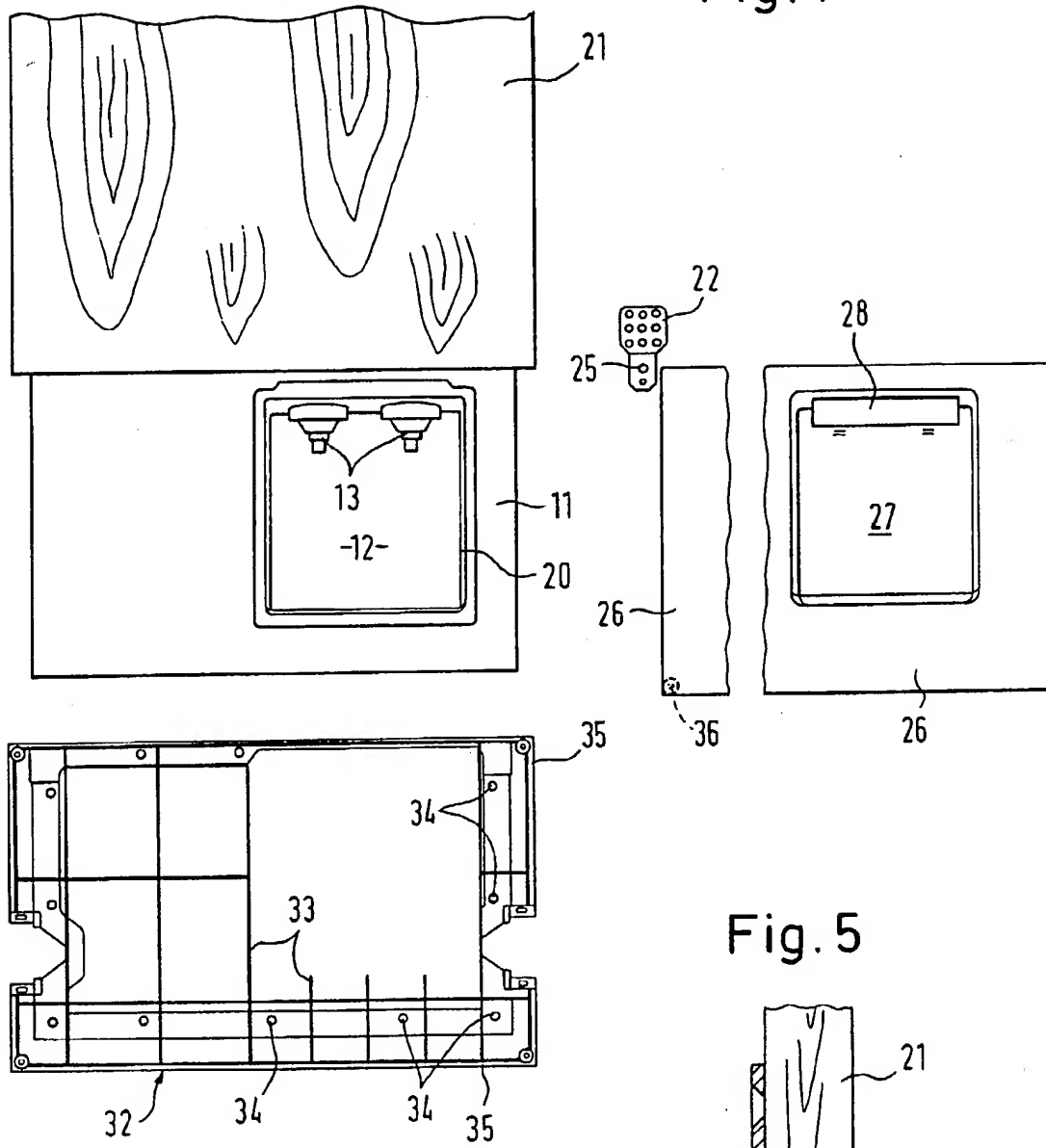
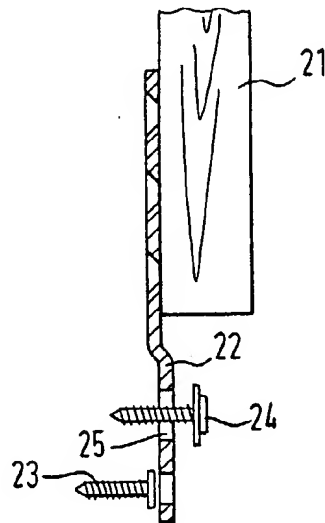


Fig. 5



DOOR TRIMMING IN A COOLING APPLIANCE

The present invention relates to a cooling appliance, especially a built-in refrigerator.

Refrigerators are known with a dispenser for cooled beverages, the valve-controlled outlet of the dispenser being arranged in a recess, which is accessible from the outside, in the refrigerator door. Due to the dispenser, it is difficult to provide such a refrigerator, in particular in the case of installation between neighbouring units of a facade, with a door facing element matching the refrigerator to the facade. It is not only necessary to provide access to the dispenser, but also precautions must be taken to ensure that any liquid spilled due to careless handling of the dispenser does not get into a gap between the refrigerator door and the facing element. In order to prevent this, the gap must be carefully sealed and protected.

There is thus a need for measures to solve, by simple means, the problems arising in the case of cooling appliances provided with a dispenser in the door.

According to the present invention there is provided a cooling appliance provided with a beverage dispenser having outlet means disposed in an external recess of a door of the appliance, the door being faced with a trim element which is cut away at the level of the recess and which is provided with a cover member covering the cut away region.

By means of such a cover member covering the cut away region, the particular hygiene requirements of the dispenser may be met and cleaning of the dispenser permitted. Moreover, the external appearance

of a dispenser of that kind in the facade may be appreciably improved.

Preferably, the cover member is provided with a trough-like portion which is inserted into the recess and closely matches the outline thereof. By this means the outer dimensions in the already
5 relatively small recess do not need to be restricted further and reliable operation of the dispenser is possible.

The cover member can be underlaid by a frame which is placed on the door and provided with ribs or lattice-like stays bounding the recess. This results in a particularly light and rigid construction,
10 which is simple for assembly.

The trough-like portion can be provided in a ceiling thereof, facing the outlet means of the dispenser, with a passage opening, at the rim of which a filler element receiving the outlet means is detented. A cover member equipped with a filler element of that kind
15 can be assembled particularly easily and securely.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be more particularly described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a schematic front view of part of a built-in
20 refrigerator embodying the invention, the refrigerator being inserted into a facade made up of individual units;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view, to an enlarged scale, of part of the door of the refrigerator inclusive of a beverage dispenser and door facing elements;

25 Fig. 3 is an exploded sectional view of the door part, and associated components, shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is an exploded front view of the door and associated components; and

Fig. 5 is a sectional view, to an enlarged scale, of part of a facing element of the door and fastener for the element

5 Referring now to the drawings, there is shown a built-in refrigerator which is inserted into a furniture facade 10 composed of several individual elements and which has a door 11 provided in the lower region thereof with a recess 12 for the outlet of a beverage dispenser 13, which is accessible from outside the refrigerator, for
10 cooled beverages. The dispenser 13, which is not more closely described, consists of one or more beverage bottles 14, which are arranged inverted at the inside of the door 11 and on the neck of each of which is a respective dispensing valve operable from outside by a lever 15. The beverage bottles 14 are supported at the inward side of
15 the door 11 and retained closely against the door by respective resilient stirrups 16. Situated in the upper portion of the door 11 at the inward side thereof are several removable containers 17 and 18 for foodstuffs to be cooled.

Placed on the base of the recess 12 so as to be accessible from
20 the outward side of the door 11 is a removable bowl 19, by means of which any liquid dripping from the valves of the dispenser 13 is collected. The recess 12 in the door is lined by a trough-like moulded part 20 inserted therein.

The door 11 is faced by a facing element 21, which is mounted on
25 the front side thereof and the surface pattern or texture of which is matched to that of the neighbouring units of the facade 10. Provided

for fastening of the element 21 are fittings 22, which are disposed at the rear side thereof and of which only one is shown in each of Figs. 3 to 5. The element 21 is fastened to the upper edge of the door 11 by a further fitting in the form of a bracket rail (not shown). The 5 fittings are constructed to permit subsequent alignment of the element 21 relative to the fronts of the neighbouring units. As is evident from, in particular, Fig. 5 this purpose is served by, respectively, two setting screws 23 and fastening screws 24, which are associated in pairs and the latter of which penetrate the fittings 22 by way of 10 further passage bores 25.

The facing element 21, which sits as a facing on the outer side of the door 11, is cut out in the lower portion, i.e. the portion with the recess 12, of the door and is faced in the region of this cut-out with a cover member 26 which extends over the entire width thereof 15 taking in the lower portion of the door 11. The member 26 has a trough-like portion 27, which is inserted into the recess 12 and closely fits the outline shape thereof. The portion 27 is provided at its ceiling and in the region of the outlet of the dispenser 13 with a passage opening 28, at the rim of which a filler element 29 receiving 20 the outlet is mechanically detented. The element 29 is for this purpose provided with resilient detent elements 30, which are detentable into corresponding receptacles at the rim of the passage opening 28. The member 26 is provided at its rim with a rearwardly extending, encircling border 31.

25 Arranged behind the member 26, as is recognisable from Figs. 3 and 4, is a frame 32, which is placed on the front side of the door 11

in the lower region thereof and which is provided with latticework-like stays bounding the recess 12 and having the form of perpendicularly intersecting longitudinal and transverse ribs 33. The frame 32 is provided with bores 34, which are arranged in its side limbs at regular spacings and which serve for reception of the threaded shanks of fastening screws, the screws being screwable into bores arranged congruently in the lower region of the door 11 near to its rim. The frame 32 is also provided with a border 35, which extends rounds its rim and which is engageable in box-like manner with the border 31 at the rear side of the lining 26 at the rim thereof.

Eyes 36, which serve for the reception of the threaded shank screws by which the member 26 is firmly connectible with the frame, are situated in the corners of the border 31.

The door 11 can be equipped, after production, rapidly and securely with the described facing parts, in particular the facing element 21, the cover member 26 and the frame 32. The fittings used for fastening these parts are constructed to permit subsequent alignment or adjustment of the parts relative to each other and to the fronts of neighbouring attached or built-in units.

CLAIMS

1. A cooling appliance provided with a beverage dispenser having outlet means disposed in an external recess of a door of the appliance, the door being faced with a trim element which is cut away at the level of the recess and which is provided with a cover member
5 covering the cut away region.
2. An appliance as claimed in claim 1, comprising a frame placed on the door and between the door and the cover member, the frame having ribs bounding the area of the recess.
3. An appliance as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the
10 cover member has a trough-like portion disposed in and closely matching the shape of the recess..
4. An appliance as claimed in claim 3, wherein the trough-like portion is provided in a ceiling thereof with a passage opening, a filler element enclosing the outlet means being retained in the
15 opening by detent means.
5. An appliance as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the trim element and cover member are mounted on the door to be adjustable relative to each other and to facings which, in use, adjoin the appliance.

6. An appliance as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, the appliance being a refrigerator.

7. A cooling appliance substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.